



News from **Councilmember Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

Even though the City Council is not meeting this week, much work is getting done to improve our neighborhoods. The new Sixth Avenue Playground in Balboa Park opens tomorrow, and the ribbon will be cut on the new Vons in Mission Hills on Thursday. Please keep reading to learn more about what I'm doing to protect local canyons, what urban farming you can now do on your property, and the latest on some other neighborhood efforts.

Protect Local Canyons

Today, I had the privilege of testifying before the California State Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water in Sacramento to fight for protections for our local canyons. Senate Bill 1169, sponsored by the City of San Diego and authored by State Senator Christine Kehoe, would allow the City of San Diego to dedicate 10,000 acres of open space.

SB 1169 was approved by the Committee and will next be heard by the full State Senate.

San Diego's system of urban canyons and open space has long been recognized by planners and community members as one of our region's most valuable and distinguishing features. In fact, the Council District that I represent, while highly urbanized, is laced with canyon areas. As densification increases, so does the importance of preserving and restoring our canyons as a link to nature and a sanctuary from the urban environment.

The canyons and other open space areas subject to this bill are all owned in fee title by the City of San Diego and have been set aside specifically as open space. By enabling their dedication, SB 1169 will give these areas an added layer of protection against the pressures of encroachment since Dedicated Open Spaces require a 2/3 vote of the electorate in order to be used for any other purpose.

Urban Agriculture Rules Now in Effect

Thanks to the efforts of many of you, the City of Diego now has new rules governing urban agriculture. The rules were approved by the City Council at the end of January and went into effect on March 23. Three informational sheets about keeping goats, chickens and bees on your property are attached for reference. You can also find them [online](#).

Golden Hill MAD Update

Since courts eliminated the Greater Golden Hill Maintenance Assessment District (GGHMAD), many questions have arisen which remain unanswered. I am working closely with Mayor Sanders and the City Attorney as we chart the future for the community and wanted to alert you of the latest information I have. The County has already corrected this year's assessments for GGHMAD in its system and will mail the corrected tax bills this week to all property owners.

within Greater Golden Hill. This means property owners will no longer be assessed for the GGHMAD for this year or going forward. Those who have paid their first assessment installment will be credited; those who have already paid their full assessment for fiscal year 2012 will be refunded by the County.

Easter Basket Drive

Easter is fast approaching, and I hope you'll again join me in supporting the Imperial Court de San Diego's Community Easter Egg Hunt by donating an Easter basket.

I am helping collect Easter baskets for children 1 to 12 years old. The baskets will be distributed at a free community event.

Please deliver the baskets and/or monetary donations for the baskets by April 2 to Courtney Thomson in the Council District Three office, 202 C Street, 10th Floor, or call 619-236-6633 for more information.

North Park Citizens' Patrol

The North Park Division of Stonewall Citizens' Patrol is now forming!

Stonewall Citizens' Patrol is looking for volunteers in several areas, including paroling, fundraising and other support. Any participation would be greatly appreciated. If you're interested, please contact nberdy@northparksd.org or info@stonewallcitizens.org.

As always, I welcome your feedback, questions and concerns. Please contact me at toddgloria@sandiego.gov, 619-236-6633, or via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,



Todd

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